Menzies Project Scientific Results: 2002-2004

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The Menzies Project mission is to develop a sustainable citizen-based environmental education and monitoring program funded by ecotourism. This poster presents scientific results from our studies in the Admiralty Inlet region from 2002 to 2004. During August and September 2003 the southern portion of Port Townsend Bay experienced continuous high plankton abundance (Psuedo-nitzschia was the most abundant taxon) and low dissolved oxygen at -25 m depth (between 2.97 and 5.0 mg/l). Drift card studies in 2003 and 2004 identified Fort Flagler and Kala Point beaches as particularly vulnerable to an oil spill originating in the center of Port Townsend Bay. Drogue studies identified a back-eddy current system in the southern portion of Port Townsend Bay. Harbor seal (Phoca vitulina) counts at Protection Island were zero in mid-winter and gradually increased to between 1,000 and 1,400 by mid-September. Underwater videographic transects at the site of historical kelp beds on Dallas Bank (Nereocystis beds disappeared during the 1990s) indicate the presence of understory kelp and eelgrass (*Zostera marina*) throughout the summer. Ovigary studies on spot prawns (Pandalus platyceros) suggest a migration of gravid females out of Port Townsend Bay during the mid-winter months.